



Message from the Chair

Green Looks Good On Us

What better occasion than Quebec Marine Day (QMD) to publish our fall newsletter? Especially since this year's theme, "Marine transportation, a green solution," strongly reflects the Quebec SSS Roundtable's key messages. In our meetings with members of the Parliament, we must never hesitate to emphasize the advantages of marine transportation, the savings in terms of road maintenance, and the fact that it helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We could go on and on about the benefits of our mode of transportation, and I have no doubt that the participants in QMD will do so with enthusiasm. SSS is an economical and environmental solution that should be better known and better integrated into our transportation practices.



QMD is also an opportunity to publicly launch the Environmental Program of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Marine Industry. The result of much hard work and collaboration, the Program is tangible proof that we are, now more than ever, a cutting edge industry. By voluntarily complying with the policy, marine companies are showing that, beyond the many legislative and regulatory obligations already in place, they want to constantly improve their environmental performance. Overseen by Green Marine, the Program sets out concrete actions to take, goals to achieve, and environmental monitoring initiatives to introduce.

So don't be surprised to see the Green Marine logo more and more often. From now on it will be the sign of the marine industry's commitment to the environment.

Nicole Trépanier

Two more new ships in the domestic fleet



Groupe Desgagnés has acquired a new Beluga F-240. It is a multi-purpose LO-LO vessel with tween decks, able to transport heavy loads. The vessel is over 138 meters long, has 20,000 m³ total freight capacity in its holds and main deck, and is equipped with two 120 mt cranes which may be deployed to lift 240 mt in tandem. Named the **Rosaire A. Desgagnés**, it is rated Ice Class 1A and will be operated primarily in the eastern Canadian Arctic to serve northern communities. This \$40 million investment is an excellent example of a dedicated SSS vessel.

Ocean Group continues its launch with the arrival of its second new tug in less than three months. The **Ocean Henry Bain** is an ultramodern 5,000 (BHP) tug. It is powered by two omnidirectional Z-Drive engines, has a Class 1 fire-control system and is rated Ice Class 1A. The new acquisition will be assigned to Quebec port operations and will also be used for escorting other vessels, short- and long-distance towing, search operations, and wreck recovery. This will make marine services on the St. Lawrence even better!



Highway H₂O continues its public awareness campaign

It is impossible not to notice the efforts made by Highway H₂O to attract new cargo to the St. Lawrence – Great Lakes system. For the past few years, promotional campaigns have been put forward to raise awareness among the public, such as shippers, of the benefits of marine transportation. All these initiatives are innovative and original. The most recent, “Blue is Green” specifically emphasizes the environmental benefits of marine transportation.



Comprised of the St. Lawrence River, St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes, Highway H₂O is a 3,700-kilometer (2,400 mile) marine highway that runs between Canada and the United States. Hwy H₂O flows directly into our commercial, industrial and agricultural heartland, home to some 100 million people, roughly one quarter of the Canada/U.S. combined population.

The numbers speak for themselves:

- ✓ the value of goods transported by water in North America is valued at over \$300 billion annually.
- ✓ maritime commerce on Hwy H₂O annually generates more than \$4.3 billion in personal income, \$3.4 billion in transportation-related revenue and \$1.3 billion in federal, state and local taxes.
- ✓ waterborne shipping is the mode of transport for 3/4 of the planet’s international trade.

Highway H₂O can carry more than double the volume it is currently transporting, while the roads that serve the same axis are already above capacity, and the public investments required are enormous. Why ignore this potential when everyone is talking about sustainable development?

Action Plan on Climate Change: Québec’s Transportation Measures

The Government of Quebec’s action plan on climate change includes two measures that affect cargo transportation and will be managed by Transport Quebec as of 2007-2008. A \$10 million annual budget will support initiatives to promote intermodal projects (including increased use of railways and shipping in domestic and continental transport). This funding will be made available through a new component of the Assistance Program for Modal Integration (APMI). In addition, \$5 million per year will be made available to business submitting projects to introduce technological innovations in the area of energy efficiency in road, rail, or marine transport. These two funding programs should be available through 2012.

A departure from the Québec SSS Roundtable

Janin Huard, a member of the Table, has agreed to take on new challenges at Transport Canada. He will be taking the position of Senior Analyst, Climate Change, Sustainable Development. Because of this, he will not longer be participating in the Roundtable. We wish him every success in his new duties, and thank him sincerely for his contributions to the Québec SSS Roundtable.

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To contact us : (418) 648-4378 or nicole.trepanier@armateurs-du-st-laurent.org